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ABSTRACT

The document describes the educational system of Bulgaria which is in the process of being modified in response to decisions made by the Bulgarian Communist party at the end of the 1960s and during the 1970s. One of the main purposes of reform was to lower the age by which a student completes secondary education from 18 to 16, and thus increase Bulgaria's available manpower. A short history of Bulgarian education is given first plus a summary of education administration, planning, financing, grading, and enrollment. Infants may be admitted to nursery schools at one year and remain there until the age of three, when they may attend kindergarten. They then attend intermediate and secondary schools until they graduate at 16 years of age. Four post-secondary school options are available. Vocational schools train semiskilled and skilled workers, technical institutes train technicians, and semi-higher institutes train teachers, railroad, post office, telephone, and telegraph workers. The higher education institutes are either general universities or specialized institutes in areas such as agriculture, finance and economics, and music. A list of higher institutions is provided. The document gives some detail on teacher education, continuing education, special education, and extracurricular activities. A glossary and bibliography conclude the document. (BC)

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The Educational System of Bulgaria

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THE COUNTRY AND THE PEOPLE

Official Name: People's Republic of Bulgaria.
Location: Southeastern Europe, on the Balkan Peninsula.
Size: 42,785 square miles.
Main Subdivisions: 27 Provinces (*Okr"zi*) and the capital city, Sofia, which is a separate administrative unit.
Official Language: Bulgarian.
Population: 8.7 million (January 1975).
People: 85 percent Bulgarian, 9 percent Turk, 6 percent Armenian, Greek, Gypsy, Macedonian, and Romanian.
Literacy Rate: Approximately 95 percent.
Government: Communist People's Republic.

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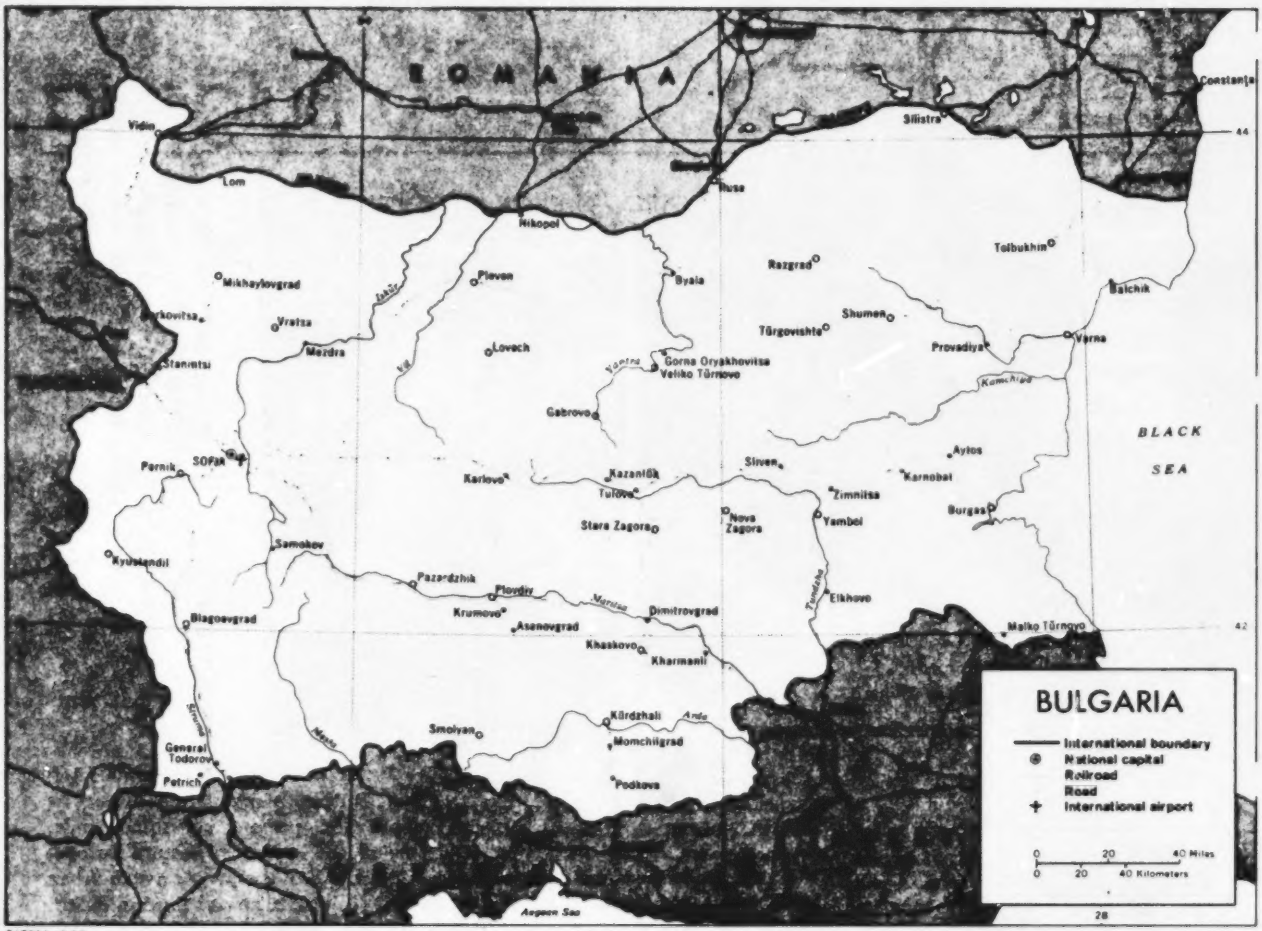
THE BASIC SYSTEM

Historical Background

Settlement of the Russo-Turkish War in 1878 ended the period of about 500 years during which Bulgaria formed part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, and established much of what is presently northern Bulgaria as a principality under nominal allegiance to Turkey. The union of this principality with Eastern Rumelia in 1885 brought contemporary Bulgaria into existence, although its formal independence from Turkey was not proclaimed until 1908.

Education developed rapidly after Bulgaria's quasi-independence as a principality in 1878. From 1879 to 1910 the number of schools trebled and the number of students increased fivefold. In 1878 the National Library was founded in Sofia, and in 1888 a "higher school" (which subsequently became the University of Sofia) was established with three faculties—history and philology, physics and mathematics, and law. In 1895 a school of art was founded, and in 1911 the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences was established. By 1910, literacy had reached 63 percent in towns and cities and 35 percent in villages. During this post-1878 period, American missionaries organized a number of educational institutions, including kindergartens and preschool centers, elementary and secondary


ROMANIA
Vidin
Lom
Ruse
Silistra
Constanța
Hikopel
Tolbukhin
Razgrad
Pleven
Byala
Balchik
Mikhaylovgrad
Vratsa
Mezdra
Lovech
Shumen
Türgovishte
Provadiya
Varna
Stanimaka
Gorna Oryakhovitsa
Veliko Türnovo
Gabrovo
BLACK SEA
Pernik
SOFIA
Karlovo
Kazanlŭk
Tulovo
Sliven
Aytos
Karnobat
Zimnitsa
Burgas
Nova Zagora
Stara Zagora
Yambol
Samokov
Kyustendil
Pazardzhik
Plovdiv
Elkhovo
Blagoevgrad
Krumovo
Asenovgrad
Dimitrovgrad
Malko Türnovo
Khaskovo
Kharmanli
Kŭrdzhali
Momchilgrad
Smolyan
General Todorov
Petrich
Podkova
Aegean Sea
BULGARIA
International boundary
National capital
Railroad
Road
International airport
0 20 40 Miles
0 20 40 Kilometers
817928 12-75

schools, teacher-training institutions, a college in Sofia, and theological institutes.

In the late 19th and early 20th century, education in Bulgaria was organized essentially according to the following pattern. Elementary education from grades 1 to 4 was followed by 3 years' schooling in the "progymnasium." Graduation from this institution admitted students to the 3-year "real" school, to the gymnasium (academic general secondary school)—if their grades were above average and they passed an entrance examination—or to certain vocational schools, such as middle commercial schools and vocational trade schools. After 3 years in the gymnasium, students could apply for admission to certain specialized schools, such as the school for railroad, telegraph, and postal workers, or any of a number of elementary teacher-training schools. After 5 years in the gymnasium, students could apply for admission to a university.

By 1939, despite serious economic and political difficulties between World War I and World War II, school attendance had become theoretically compulsory, and the literacy rate was about 75 percent. In a country with a population of only a little over 6 million, over 1 million persons were attending schools at all levels. Of these, approximately 13,000 were children enrolled in 254 kindergartens, and 9,500 were youth studying in postsecondary schools. Also, three new faculties had been added to the University of Sofia, a new Free University for Economic and Commercial Sciences had been established in Sofia, and other higher educational institutions had been founded.

The gymnasium during this period largely followed the traditional European pattern of academic general secondary education, consisting of three distinct programs: classical, in which both Latin and Greek were taught; semiclassical, in which Latin but not Greek was offered; and the scientific and "real" schools in which these languages were excluded and sciences and mathematics stressed instead.

The Second World War generally halted Bulgarian educational development. A Communist-led coalition called the Fatherland Front came to power on September 9, 1944. Three years later, on December 4, 1947, a new Constitution based on the Soviet model was proclaimed.

Communist ascent to power in Bulgaria had a decisive impact upon the Nation's educational system. Religious influences in the schools, such as required courses in religion, were abolished, and textbooks were written to present Communist ideological tenets. Private schools were either closed or confiscated and converted to public purposes. Education was reorganized from the Ministry of Education down to the local communal level to correspond in organization with the Bulgarian Communist Party and to place Party members and sympathizers in positions of responsibility. The *Chavdarcheta* (for children 7–9), the Dimitrov Pioneers (for youth 9-14), and the Dimitrov Communist League (for persons 14-27) became mass extracurricular, ideological, social, and educational organizations for young people.

In 1949, all schools became coeducational. At the same time, the primary and secondary schools of the country were consolidated into one 11-year unit, with an 8-year primary cycle and a 3-year secondary cycle, and a special 5-year foreign language school (described on p. 11) was established.

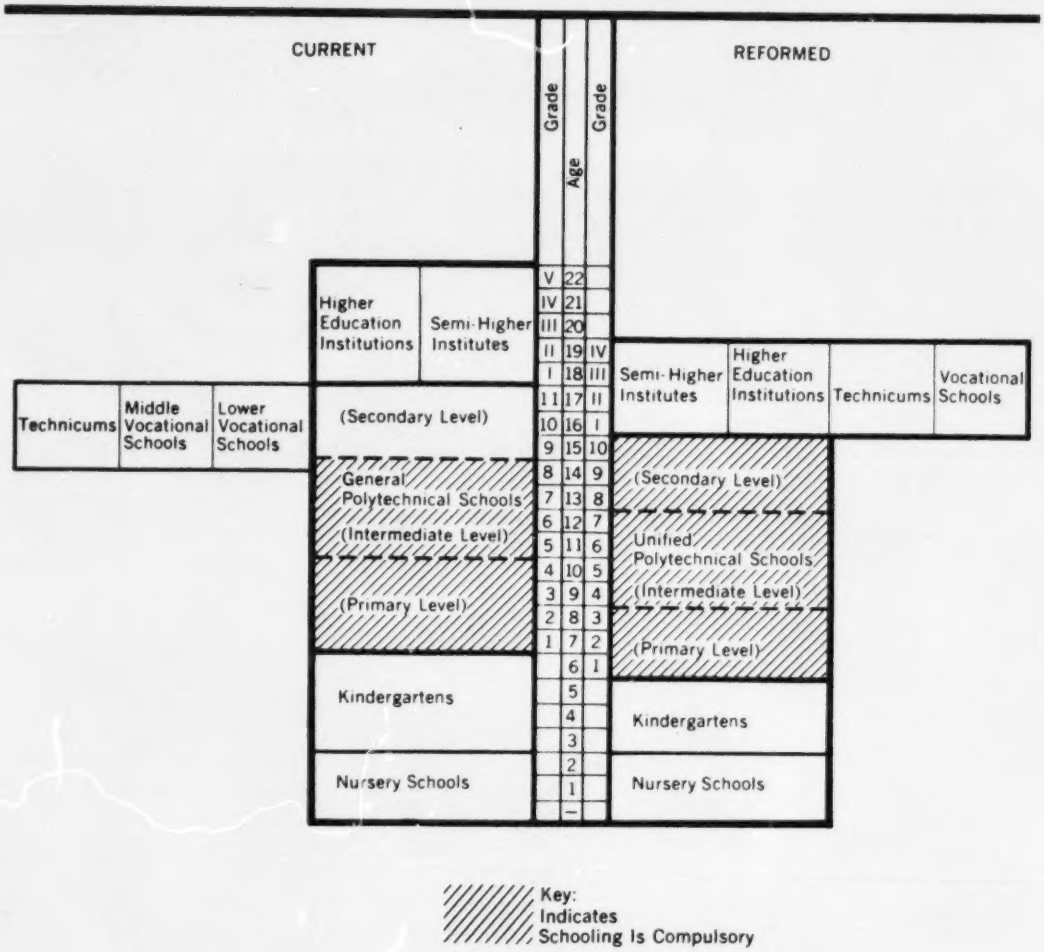
Also during the immediate post-World War II period, the number and types of schools were increased, with a corresponding rise in enrollments. Camps for children and youth were expanded under the auspices of the Dimitrov Pioneers and Komsomols, and school boarding units were increased and emphasized. The number of *chitalishta* (reading clubs), museums, and libraries also increased. All these institutions and programs helped serve ideological purposes.

In 1951, vocational schools were reorganized, and in 1957 a mandate of the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party introduced polytechnical content at all grade levels. Two years later, the 1959 General Law on Education created a new form of secondary educational institution, the general polytechnical school (described on pages 9 and 10); extended compulsory education from 7 to 8 years; and mandated that all students at all levels engage in "socially useful activities" that "educate in labor."

Structure

The Bulgarian educational system currently consists of a 3-year *crèche* (nursery school), a 4-year kindergarten, an 11-year general polytechnical school with three stages (a 4-year primary, a 4-year intermediate, and a 3-year secondary), technicums and vocational schools at various levels, and semi-higher institutes and higher education institutions at the postsecondary level. Children enter the general polytechnical school at age 7 and must attend for 8 years. (See chart on p. 4.)

Current and reformed structure of education in Bulgaria: 1976 [1]



[1] The patterns shown here are the usual ones. As indicated in the text, some types of schools vary in duration.

This system is in the process of being modified, however, in response to decisions concerning education made by the Bulgarian Communist Party at the end of the 1960's and during the early 1970's. The most notable structural changes being introduced (outlined in the "reformed" section of the chart and discussed later under "The Reformed System") are (1) shortening the duration of the general polytechnical school from 11 to 10 years, (2) lowering the age of admission to 6 years of age, (3) raising the number of years of compulsory schooling from 8 to 10 years, (4) providing increased vocational training in the general polytechnical school (to be called the unified secondary polytechnical school although it includes the primary and intermediate levels), and (5) upgrading all vocational-technical schools to the postsecondary level. The chart above shows both the current and the reformed structures.

One of the main purposes of these structural changes is to lower the age by which a student completes secondary education (by the age of 16 rather than 18) and thus increase Bulgaria's available manpower.

Legal Basis and Requirements

Education in Bulgaria is governed by numerous laws and regulations, only a few of which will be mentioned here. Perhaps the most important is the following provision in article 45 of the 1971 Bulgarian Constitution:

> All citizens of the People's Republic of Bulgaria are entitled to free education in all grades and types of educational establishments, under conditions determined by law.
>
> The educational establishments belong to the State.
>
> Education is based on the achievements of modern science and the Marxist-Leninist ideology.
>
> The State creates conditions for the introduction of secondary education for all.
>
> The State promotes education, improves the general conditions of work at the educational establishments, grants scholarships. . . .
>
> Citizens of non-Bulgarian extraction, in addition to the compulsory study of Bulgarian, also have the right to study their own languages.

In addition to the 1959 General Law on Education mentioned previously, other important legislation includes the following:

Order No. 631 of December 28, 1971, of the Council of Ministers, which outlined procedures for involving youth who are neither studying nor employed in "socially useful work." Coordinated efforts were to be made for their "scholastic and vocational guidance."

Order No. 433 of the Bureau of the Council of Ministers, dated February 30, 1972, in accordance with Decree No. 1 of January 22, 1972, which detailed provisions for a unified approach to secondary technical education and to vocational training in general. At the same time, primary education was to be shortened from 4 to 3 years, with the change taking place over a 3-year period beginning in the 1973–74 school year.

Decree No. 1843 of March 18, 1972, by the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, which provided for creation of new general councils as governing bodies at higher education institutions. Representation to these councils includes all levels of staff, student representatives, and individuals from the appropriate state ministries involved in the specific activity (e.g., transportation, construction, and agriculture).

Decree No. 907 of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, dated May 9, 1972, which clarified the activities of the Higher Certification Commission in certifying studies completed at higher education institutions.

Decree No. 2 of February 7, 1973, of the Council of Ministers, which established a unified system for graduate training of specialists.

In addition, a number of programs and policies concerning education have been advanced by Communist Party Congresses, by the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, and by the Dimitrov League of Young Communists (through resolutions of its congresses and declarations of its Central Committee). Depending upon their nature, these decisions are either implemented directly in practice or are adopted by the appropriate bodies and given legal sanction through orders, decrees, or legislation. For instance, some of the current reforms developed following a memorandum from Todor Zhivkov, First Secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party, to the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and read at its Plenary Session, held from July 30 to 31, 1969.

Administration

The national level.—The Ministry of Public Education, headed by the Minister and several Deputy or Assistant Ministers, is the most important administrative body in the country for the primary, intermediate, and secondary education levels. It encompasses among its many and varied functions responsibility for ideological work in the schools, teaching methods, and curricular materials. It approves all basic curriculums, courses of study, and school programs; supervises the writing and publication of textbooks and most other curricular materials and the preparation of auxiliary teaching aids; institutes standards and procedures for hiring teachers; establishes school entrance requirements; determines the calendar for schools of all types; and can establish or close secondary schools under its immediate jurisdiction.

The administration and operation of most vocational schools and some technicums are the responsibility of the Government ministry, economic trust (large Government unit responsible for an industrial sector), or other unit under whose jurisdiction the particular trade or vocation falls. Each unit administering such schools contains one or more educational sections that are directly responsible for them. In the case of vocational schools, interdepartmental committees at the national, provincial, and school levels also review and administer particular vocational programs. These committees include vocational educators, workers from the particular industry, and representatives from the appropriate ministry or unit. On-the-job training is also controlled by education committees within the particular establishments.

The Ministry of Public Education, however, reviews and coordinates all vocational education and the educational requirements for each program through a special guidance council at the national level, the Interdepartmental Council

for Scholastic and Vocational Guidance. The Ministry also is responsible for all aspects of vocational education relating directly to instruction and methods, for primary and intermediate level education courses for factory workers at their place of employment (under a program inaugurated in 1972), and for vocational schools not under the exclusive control of other ministries.

Higher education is directed by a special Council of Higher Education, which is a subunit of the national Committee for Science, Technical Progress, and Higher Education. The Council coordinates and organizes the programs of all the various higher education institutions in the country, and determines the number of specialists needed to fulfill projected state plans.

The provincial level.—A Province, governed by its Provincial People's Council or Soviet, has as an adjunct a section for public education with some of the structural characteristics of the national Ministry of Public Education. The section implements the regulations and instructions set down by the Ministry of Public Education and the decisions and policies adopted by the Provincial People's Council or its executive committee. It also directly supervises and administers most general polytechnical schools within the Province. Often a special education committee from the Provincial People's Council is also formed to oversee the work of this section.

The local level.—A local community, also governed by a local People's Council, may have a special section for public education as an adjunct if the community is large. If not, the Council itself assumes the educational functions that would have been assigned to the section. These include administering and funding some kindergartens in the community and the schools in which attendance is compulsory (currently, grades 1–8). The schools are administered on a daily basis by a director, with the assistance of the school soviet or council.

The Communist Party.—The Bulgarian Communist Party plays a major although indirect role in the administrative process because its members hold most of the key administrative positions in all levels of education. A school director and a number of teachers are almost always Party members, and together they constitute the Party cell of the school. The members of the People's Councils at the local and provincial levels and perhaps the great majority of the educational workers in the education sections at each respective level are also Party members. At the national level, the Minister of Public Education is in fact, although not by law, a member of the Central Committee of the Party. Likewise most of his staff, particularly those with major responsibilities, are high-ranking members of the Bulgarian Communist Party. The rector of the University of Sofia also is usually a member of the Party's Central Committee. Although this relationship between the Party and key administrators exists in all other areas of Bulgarian society, it is especially important in education because of the ideological functions assigned to education. Thus education policies adopted at national Party Congresses and by the Central Committee of the Party are implemented by the Party members responsible for the Nation's educational processes. In each school, therefore, the school party cell is involved in carrying out these policies. Similarly, education policies developed at Party meetings of a Province are implemented in the schools of the particular Province.

Educational Planning

State planning for Bulgarian education encompasses all instructional levels and all education institutions. Education is integrated directly into the various national 5- and 20-year plans according to decisions made at congresses of the Bulgarian Communist Party and the plenums of its Central Committee. Each plan includes a section on education and is coordinated with the projected economic and anticipated social needs of the country. After being formally proposed and adopted by the Party, a plan must be approved by the State Planning Committee (ordinarily the initiating body) and ratified by the National Assembly, whereupon it becomes law.

Local requests for funding new items in an education plan are submitted to the State Planning Committee through a well-defined network. Each education institution in a Province draws up a plan and estimates the cost of any project that it seeks to undertake. This plan is then forwarded to the section for public education of the Provincial People's Council. There the requests are reviewed and analyzed in terms of the Province as a whole. Subsequently, they are combined into a unified request and submitted by the provincial section for public education to the national Ministry of Public Education. This body next prepares an education plan for the entire nation and submits it to the State Planning Committee, which analyzes and adjusts it in terms of the original draft of the Party Congress and submits it to the Central Commit-

tee of the Communist Party and the Council of Ministers for ratification. The final plan and budget then must be approved by the National Assembly, as indicated previously.

The State Planning Committee subsequently serves as the coordinating body for the plan, gathering statistical data and developing indices regarding progress toward its achievement. Its powers are considerable, and policies developed by that body are obligatory for all ministries, provincial councils, and institutions, including all schools of every type at all levels below higher education.

Plans for higher education in Bulgaria are drawn up in terms of the projected national demand for specialists in a particular discipline, field, or industry. The Committee for Science, Technical Progress, and Higher Education establishes national education priorities and determines student quotas for each specialty as a whole as well as for all higher education institutions and their teaching fields. These quotas must then be confirmed by the State Planning Committee before they assume the force of law and actual quotas can be assigned.

In certain vocational training programs, the number of openings allotted to each field is determined jointly by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, the State Planning Committee, and the Ministry of Public Education—again on the basis of projections submitted from the various industries and economic and agricultural enterprises. Since 1972, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare has been responsible for unifying all activities involving retraining workers and updating their skills. This retraining aspect is included in the total planning program.

Financing

Education is financed as part of the national budget, in harmony with the long-range state socioeconomic plan (or plans), and in line with the general policy decisions of the Bulgarian Communist Party and its leadership. The proposed education budget is usually assembled by the Finance Planning Section of the Ministry of Public Education on the basis of needs at the national level and stated requests from the various Provinces. Even certain locally financed expenditures are integrated into the total national plan. This projected education budget is then submitted to the Ministry of Finance for review and possible revision in terms of the total national budget, and finally included in the general state budget request for the coming year. This projected state budget, of which the education budget is a part, is then submitted for final approval to the Bulgarian National Assembly. Generally few, if any, changes are made during the Assembly review process.

In the education budget, the fiscal year corresponds to the calendar year rather than to the school year, thus meshing education requests even more fully with those of the economy at large.

In 1974, the education budget represented 8.25 percent of the national budget and 4.89 percent of the gross national income.[1] It is difficult to ascertain the exact expenditures for education in Bulgaria, however, because many vocational and technical institutions are financed not by a specific education ministry, but by other ministries or factories, trusts, and enterprises related to the particular vocation.

Academic Calendar

All general polytechnical schools open on September 15. The closing date varies with grade level, from May 31 to June 30. School sessions are held 6 days a week. Usually higher education institutions also begin work on September 15, although in some cases it may be on September 1. Such schools generally end their academic year on June 30, although some may continue until July 20, especially if work experiences are involved.

Under the reformed system, the school year will be divided into 2 semesters, the first from September 15 to January 31, and the second from February 5 to the end of the school year. There are 3 vacation periods—from December 31 to January 14, from February 1 to February 5, and from April 1 to April 10.

Language of Instruction

The language of instruction in almost all cases is Bulgarian. However, children of the Turkish ethnic minority sometimes receive instruction in their native Turkish in primary school and study Bulgarian as a second language. There are also a number of special foreign language schools in which the materials and instruction are in the foreign language (see p. 11).

[1] People's Republic of Bulgaria, Ministry of Public Education. *Education in the People's Republic of Bulgaria in the 1974–75 School Year*. Report presented to the 35th International Conference on Education, Geneva, September 1975. Sofia: The Ministry, 1975. p. 125.

Using a foreign language for a part of informal instruction may in certain instances commence as early as kindergarten. Children may learn to sing songs in other languages, count, say some phrases, and perhaps even listen to and follow directions in these languages. This type of education for preschoolers is encouraged; teachers who can use a foreign language may be hired specifically because of this ability, and foreign language activities may comprise an important part of the preschool day.

Grading System

Grading for all levels under both the present and the reformed educational system is numerical on a 6-point scale, as follows:

6 = excellent (*otlichen*)
5 = very good (*mnogo dob"r*)
4 = good (*dob"r*)
3 = average (*sreden*)
2 = poor (*slab*)
1 = very poor (*losh*)

Under the present system, pupils must obtain at least a grade of "3" in every subject in order to be promoted. Students receiving a grade of "2" in one or two subjects are required to take another examination on the subject at the start of the next school year. Successful completion of this examination permits them to continue in the next grade. No pupil may repeat a particular grade more than once, nor repeat more than 2 grades during his entire school career. Special, intensive makeup classes are conducted by teachers in the summer to help failing students so that they may move on to the next grade.

A campaign has been in effect for some time now to decrease the number of repeaters in the elementary grades. Teachers are expected to tutor their failing students in special, intensive makeup classes during the summer vacation in order to bring them up to the minimum level of their class. In past years, approximately 10 percent of elementary students participated in makeup programs of this type, and of this percentage about half were able to move with the rest of their class to the next grade.

Under the new system, pupils in grades 1 to 3 will automatically be passed to a higher grade at the end of the school year and will receive a written rather than a numerical evaluation of their work. At all levels, grades will be eliminated in physical education, vocational training, singing, and drawing.

Enrollment

In the 1976–77 school year, Bulgarian Government sources reported that 1,832,820 persons were enrolled in school programs in a Bulgarian education institution of some type. This means that about 21 percent out of a total population of about 8.7 million attended school full-time. Not included in the 1,832,820 are an additional 34,495 students in evening courses and 51,237 in correspondence programs.

Although attendance in kindergarten is not compulsory, 74 percent of the children between the ages of 3 and 7 were enrolled in school year 1975–76,[2] reflecting present efforts to increase kindergarten attendance. Because grades 1 through 8 (intermediate level) are compulsory, practically all students who complete primary school actually do continue through grade 8. Since the new reforms consolidating secondary education have not yet been put into effect, graduates still must decide upon the type of educational institution, if any, they will attend. Presently, about 111,000 students complete the eighth grade annually. Of these, about 70 percent, or 78,000, attend vocational schools, and the remaining 30 percent either begin grade 9 of the general polytechnical school (about 29,000 graduate each year) or enter the labor market. With the total number of those attending vocational schools of all kinds consisting not only of the approximately 78,000 recent grade-8 graduates but also of persons returning to school to learn a vocation, about 25,000 each year complete a secondary vocational school, 17,000 complete a school of less than full secondary rank, and 40,000 a technicum or an art school.[3]

Of those continuing their education beyond the secondary level, about 4,000 will eventually graduate from semi-higher education institutions and 13,000 from higher education institutions. Of these 13,000, about 5,600 will have specialized in engineering, 1,000 in agriculture, 2,000 in economics, 1,000 in some branch of the health sciences, 2,500 in some field of education, and the rest in law, physical education, and the fine arts.

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[2] Nencho Stanev, Minister of Public Education, in a statement published in *Slavyani*, September 1975, pp. 8–9.

[3] Narodna Republika B"lgariya (People's Republic of Bulgaria). *Statisticheski godishnik na Narodna R.publika B"lgariya, 1974 (Statistical Yearbook of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, 1974.)* Sofia: Ministerstvo na informatisiyata i s"obshteniyata (Ministry of Information and Communication), 1974. pp. 344–51.

Table 1.—Number of schools, students, and teachers, by level or type of school: 1976–77

[—indicates no data given.]

Level or type of school	*Schools*	*Students*	*Teachers*
Total	11,649	1,852,470	118,243
Kindergartens	7,256	394,716	25,884
General polytechnical schools, day	3,607	1,070,715	56,035
Primary	—	(391,498)	(16,392)
Intermediate	—	(585,300)	(32,493)
Secondary	—	(99,917)	(7,150)
General polytechnical schools, evening	40	13,740	633
Special schools	125	17,980	2,341
Technicums, day	217	94,658	9,421
Technicums, evening	15	[1]16,710	426
Other vocational schools	318	149,729	9,559
Semi-higher institutes	45	[2]19,143	2,325
Higher education institutions	26	[3]75,079	11,619

[1] There are in addition 18,566 correspondence students.

[2] There are in addition 3,437 correspondence students.

[3] There are in addition 1,279 evening students and 27,304 correspondence students.

Source: Adapted from: People's Republic of Bulgaria, Ministry of Public Education. *Education in the People's Republic of Bulgaria in the 1975–1977 School Years*. Report presented to the 36th International Conference on Education, Geneva, September 1977. Sofia: The Ministry, 1977. Pp. 143–49.

The numbers of Bulgarian schools, students, and teachers by various levels and types during the school year 1976–77 are shown in table 1.

PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

Nursery Schools

Infants may be admitted to the nursery schools (*jasli*) at the age of 10 months and remain there until the age of 3 years, when they may enroll in regular preschool education programs. These nursery schools are not actually part of the school system but are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health. Attendance is not compulsory, the nursery schools being operated primarily as childcare centers for the convenience of parents who are both employed. Some fee is generally charged.

Kindergartens

Kindergartens (*detski gradini*) may be attended by children from age 3 until they enroll in a general polytechnical school at age 7 or—increasingly under the new reforms—age 6. Attendance in these preschool institutions is not required, and a nominal tuition fee is usually charged.

Kindergartens may be of several types: (1) Boarding institutions where the children stay throughout the week, going home only on their parents' days off from work; (2) half-day nursery kindergartens; (3) seasonal kindergartens, maintained primarily in rural areas during annual peak work periods (i.e., generally during the harvest season); or (4) all-day kindergartens, open from about 7 a.m. to 5 or 6 p.m. The last is the most frequent type.

Activities contribute to the development of language, number concepts, rhythmic and singing skills, and ethical and political values. Foreign languages also may be included, being taught through conversation, play, and song.

GRADES 1 THROUGH 11

At the age of 7 (or now often 6 under the reformed system), children begin attending the general polytechnical school (*Sredno obshtoobrazovatelno politekhnichesko uchilishte*—literally, middle general education polytechnical school). As noted earlier, its current 11-year program is in the process of being shortened to 10 years, and other changes are being initiated that will be discussed under "The Reformed System" on pages 12 and 13.

The general polytechnical school serves a twofold function: (1) To provide students with general education in the social sciences (including Communist theory and practice), mathemat-

ics, the natural and physical sciences, and modern languages and literature, and (2) to train them in at least one vocation at a sufficiently advanced level to qualify them for entrance into the work force. "Education in labor" forms an integral part of the school curriculum at all levels, from grade 1 through grade 8, and practical work experience in an industry related to a student's vocation is mandated. In addition, preinduction military training is now also required of upper-grade students. The curriculum for the 11-year program of the general polytechnical school is shown in table 2.

The balance between general education and vocational training has shifted since the polytechnical school was established in 1959. Initially, the vocational aspect was given considerable emphasis, but during the late 1960's and early 1970's there was a move toward increased general education, with the humanities and social sciences receiving more attention. This change accelerated after the 1969 and 1971 plenums of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, which decided upon the significant reforms of Bulgarian education.

The general polytechnical school is divided into three levels or "schools"—primary, intermediate, and secondary.

Primary Schools

Sometimes referred to as the elementary school, the primary school (*nachalno uchilishte*)

Table 2.—Hours per week by grade level in each subject in the general polytechnical school curriculum: 1977

[— indicates zero hours per week]

Subject[1]	*Grade*										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
General											
Bulgarian language and literature	10	10	9	8	6	6	5	5	4	3	4
Russian language	—	—	2	3	3	4	3	2	2	1	1
Western language[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	3	2
Mathematics	5	5	6	6	6	5	4	5	5	4	5
Study of the motherland	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Physics and astronomy	—	—	—	—	—	—	3–2	2	3	3	4
Chemistry	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	3	2
Biology	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	2	2	2	—
Geography	—	—	—	1–2	2	2	2	2	2	2	—
History and the constitution	—	—	—	2	2	2	2–3	2	2	2	2
Psychology and logic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1–2
Fundamentals of communism	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2–3
Physical education	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
Fine Arts	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	—
Singing and music	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	—	—
Military-technical training	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Vocational[3]											
Education in labor[4]	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	—	—	—
Fundamentals of agriculture	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Production practice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	6	6

[1]In addition to the listed required courses, electives in the 5th through 11th grades include the following: additional coursework in the Russian language or in a Western language, Latin, Turkish, music, drawing, stenography, and automobiles and tractors. Also, 2 weeks per year are assigned in every grade for excursions and "socially useful work."

[2]Western foreign language is obligatory. However, where a school offers more than one foreign language, the student ordinarily may select the one he will study.

[3]Practical work experience is required of students each year from grade 8–10.

[4]Of the hours for education in labor, 1 hour per week has been allotted to work in the "educational-agricultural field" of the school in grades 5 and 6, and a total of 20 hours per year in grade 7.

Source: Adapted from: People's Republic of Bulgaria, Ministry of Public Education. *Education in the People's Republic of Bulgaria in the 1975–1977 School Years.* Report presented to the 36th International Conference on Education, Geneva, September 1977. Sofia: The Ministry, 1977.

until recently consisted of grades 1 through 4. The reformed primary program, which was to be fully effective in school year 1975–76, is shown in table 2. The latter program consolidates into 3 years the work formerly accomplished in 4.

Intermediate Schools

Sometimes referred to as the progymnasium (*progimnaziya*), the intermediate school consists of grades 5 through 8. For some students (about 4 percent) this stage terminates their formal education. The curriculum is shown in table 2. Students completing the first 8 grades of the general polytechnical school are awarded a certificate (*svidetelstvo*). To proceed on to the secondary school or gymnasium (*gimnaziya*), students must pass examinations in mathematics and the Bulgarian language. This requirement must be met whether they plan to continue their studies in the same school unit or go to another one. Students who fail these examinations usually either terminate their schooling or enroll in a lower vocational school. Enrollment in vocational schools is not, of course, limited to students who have failed these examinations.

Secondary Schools

Sometimes termed the gymnasium (*gimnaziya*), the secondary school presently consists of grades 9 through 11. Successful completion of the work at this level earns the students the secondary school certificate, the *matura*.

Graduates of the full general polytechnical school can apply for admission to any Bulgarian university, higher or semi-higher education institution, technical, or vocational school.

Foreign Language Schools

Another form of the general polytechnical school, foreign language schools train specialists in Russian (*politekhnicheski uchilishta s prepodavane na ruski ezik*) and in the major Western European languages: French, German, and English (*politekhnicheski uchilishta s prepodavane na frenski, nemashki, ili angliiski ezik*). The curriculum in these schools is generally identical to that in the regular program of the general polytechnical school, and graduates receive the same certificate (the *matura*) as those completing the regular program.

The Russian program is offered for grades 1 through 11, although students in certain cases may enroll in it at the end of grade 7. The program in the other languages is offered for grades 8 through 11, with a separate year between grades 7 and 8 devoted to preparatory work of 24 hours per week. Thus, the Russian program is 4 or 11 years in length, and in either case involves the same total number of years as the regular school program; whereas the program for French, German, and English requires 5 years of study, making the total length of the combined school program for its students 12 years. Admission to these schools is by competitive examination.

In the Russian program, Russian is the sole medium of instruction from the very beginning. In the other language programs, from the 8th grade on, an increasing number of subjects are taught in the respective foreign language, until in the 11th grade all subjects (except Bulgarian) are taught in the foreign language.

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Since about 1960, vocational-technical education has been provided in a number of ways for students who have completed 8 years of study. Also, students who have completed the full general polytechnical school (11 years of study) and desire to specialize in some trade or vocation often can enroll in a technicum or in a less advanced vocational school and complete the course of study in as little as 2 years. This route is sometimes pursued by youths who are not admitted to a higher education institution. Since the mid-1960's, enrollment in the various vocational schools has been more than twice that in the secondary level of the general polytechnical schools.

Changes now being made in vocational education will be discussed under "The Reformed System" on page 13.

In terms of purpose, program, and structure, these vocational institutions can generally be divided into three types—lower vocational schools, middle vocational schools, and technicums.

Lower Vocational Schools

Operating on the trade, or perhaps even subtrade level, the lower vocational school (*profesionalno-tekhnichesko uchilishte*, literally, professional vocational-technical school) provides students with basic and practical skills that can be applied immediately and directly on a job. Students generally enter after completion of the eighth grade, although some may be admitted after the seventh grade and some transfer from other

secondary or vocational programs. The amount of general course work included in the curriculum is limited. The course of study in most of these schools is 2 years in duration, and students completing it receive a vocational school-leaving certificate and usually enter the work force.

Middle Vocational Schools

Providing vocational education of a somewhat more advanced nature and more general course work than the lower vocational school, the middle vocational school (*sredno profesionalno-tekhnichesko uchilishte*, literally, middle vocational-technical school) generally offers programs of 3 or more years. At the end of the program, students are required to pass a matriculation examination (both written and oral) in Bulgarian and mathematics and a qualification examination on their special subject of study and its related practical work. Successful students receive both the *matura* and a certificate or qualification (*kvalifitsiran rabotnik*) listing their level or grade of proficiency and entitling them to work at their particular trade or vocation. They may also occasionally apply for admission to a higher education institution if their academic program has been substantially the same, in courses and content, as that of the general polytechnical school.

Technicums

The purpose of the technicum (*tekhnikum*) is to train students to be technicians (rather than semiskilled or skilled workers) for various technical, economic, medical, and agricultural fields. The program is usually 4 years in duration, although some are only 3½ years and some as long as 5 years. All students in technicums must not only take course work in a specialized vocational-technical area, but also complete a specified number of hours on the following general academic subjects, which comprise about 35 percent of the total number of hours in the technicum program:

Subject	*Hours*
Bulgarian language and literature	351
Chemistry	142
Fundamentals of communism	76
History	142
Mathematics	457
Military-technical education	142
Physical training	270
Physics	178
Russian	142
Western language	142
Total	2042

A state examination in Bulgarian and mathematics (both written and oral) is required for graduation from a technicum. In addition, a diploma project is necessary, which usually involves solving a practical problem in the student's area of specialization. Lastly, the student must pass a practical examination in his or her specialty.

Students successfully completing these requirements receive the *matura* and a certificate of qualification as technicians in their particular specialty. They are, furthermore, entitled to apply for admission to any higher education institution. Again, because of the relatively greater emphasis on vocationally oriented technical subjects than on general academic subjects, most graduates of a technicum who elect to continue their education do so at a specialized higher education institute in their particular technical field.

Other Vocational Education

Vocational education of a limited nature is also provided by the general polytechnical school, since all students are required to study some trade or vocation in addition to their academic studies. Vocational training is likewise available in secondary-level music and art schools, the State Choreographic School, the Theological Seminary of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, and various similar schools.

THE REFORMED SYSTEM

The reformed system will introduce changes both in the structure of general and vocational education (as outlined under "Structure" on p. 4) and, concomitantly, in the curriculum of the general polytechnical school, which will be called the "unified secondary polytechnical school." Begun in 1973–74, these changes are being instituted gradually over a number of years.

Length of Program

The course of study in the general polytechnical school will be shortened from 11 to 10 years. This change is being effected by reducing the length of primary education from 4 to 3 years. The content of the primary grades has been redistributed over a 3-year cycle. Grade 1 came under the new program in 1973–74, grade 2 in 1974–75, and grade 3 in 1975–1976, thus completing the period of transition. Grade 5 has become grade 4, although the content is

generally the same as before, so that the final grade will be grade 10 instead of grade 11.

Age of Admission

Plans call for lowering the age of admission to the general (or unified) polytechnical school to 6 from 7, the generally effective enrollment age under the old system. Although grade 1 is now under the reformed system, the lower age of admission has not been fully effected. Thus most young people will complete their secondary education by the age of 16 and either enroll in a technical school or higher education institution, or enter the work force at an earlier age. This has the effect of increasing Bulgaria's available manpower, which is one of the main purposes of the reforms.

Compulsory Attendance

The number of years of required school attendance will be increased from 8 to 10 years, or until the age of 18 (for students who because of having had to repeat one or more grades have not graduated earlier). Thus, since students will begin grade 1 at 6 years of age, attendance will generally be required throughout the new 10-year program in the unified polytechnical school. (Note that although the new name includes the term "secondary," the school includes the primary and intermediate levels as well as the secondary level.)

Requirements

The curriculum of the unified polytechnical school will be divided into three broad areas—nature and mathematics, the humanities, and manual-polytechnical training. Within each area, there will be both required and elective courses.

Students completing grade 10 with no grade lower than "3" during the last year of school will be permitted to take a series of final examinations in the Bulgarian language (oral and written), mathematics (oral and written), and Russian, physics, chemistry, and Bulgarian history (all oral); if they pass, they will be awarded a diploma that will qualify them to apply for admission to any vocational/technical school or higher education institution. Those students who are not allowed to take these examinations, elect not to take them, or fail them, will simply be given a certificate of graduation (*svidetelstvo*) and will enter the labor pool. Pupils with an average grade of at least "3" during their entire secondary school career are exempt from all examinations except the written parts of those in the Bulgarian language and mathematics. This reform of the examination process in Bulgaria is currently in a state of flux and may be changed somewhat in the near future.

Vocational Education

Under the new reforms, vocational schools will gradually be upgraded or replaced by postsecondary institutions. This means that much of the vocational preparation now occurring in vocational schools at the secondary level will either be provided in the general polytechnical school or be deferred to the postsecondary level. The name of the newly restructured institution has been changed to "unified polytechnical school" (*edinnoto sredno politekhnichesko uchilishte*, literally, unified secondary [or middle] polytechnical school) to reflect the new aims and functions set for it, namely, providing all the varied secondary school programs formerly offered by a great number of different institutions.

Persons who for one reason or another drop out will be required to qualify for some occupation through on-the-job training or other more informal, but organized, vocational courses outside the regular school program.

Those who continue vocational education in the technicums may be "trained production workers" at the age of 17 or 18; and those who elect some form of university level studies "will be specialists with a higher education diploma" at 19 or 20.[4]

The training leading to qualification in a vocation or skilled trade generally will take place at the postsecondary level either (1) in programs of industrial education supported primarily by factories and other enterprises or (2) in technicums. The technicums will be organized as a separate independent subsystem in the total educational structure and will be mostly of postsecondary rank.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The goals for Bulgarian higher education have been stated many times in numerous official Government and Communist Party documents. The main tasks of the university include:

> [training] scholarly cadre and specialists . . . capable of discovering the most direct, most effectual, and most economic paths for the practical application and utilization of new research discoveries in the different areas of

[4] Todor Zhivkov (Communist Party First Secretary). *Rabotnichesko Delo* (Labor's Cause.) Aug. 1, 1969, p. 1.

socialist life. . . . It requires . . . Marxist-Leninist principles . . . a highly developed consciousness of the social calling, and a responsibility of the scholar and specialist as the builder of a new social order. . . .[5]

It thus requires a person who is both Marxist and a specialist—a person who adheres to Party principles (whether or not he is officially a member) and who at the same time possesses high vocational competence with which he can contribute to the Bulgarian socialist society.

Higher education in Bulgaria is provided in what are known as semi-higher institutes and in higher education institutions.

Semi-Higher Institutes

Postsecondary educational programs of 2 to 3 years' duration are provided by semi-higher institutes (*poluvisshi instituti*) for students who have received the *matura*. Graduates qualify at a lower level in their particular specialty than do graduates of the full higher education institutions.

Semi-higher institutes include those for training primary, intermediate, secondary, and vocational teachers; railroad personnel; and post office, telephone, and telegraph workers. Some of the more important Bulgarian institutes in this category are the Institute for Librarians, with a 2-year program, the Winter Institute of Agriculture and the Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone Institute, each with a 3-year program, and the various institutes for teachers (*uchitelski instituti*), with 2- and 3-year courses for future teachers of the primary and intermediate school levels, respectively.

Higher Education Institutions

With 4- to 6-year programs of study, higher education institutions (*visshi uchebni zavedeniya*) may be divided into two categories: (1) universities and (2) specialized institutes in various technical areas such as agriculture, finance and economics, art, music, physical education, engineering, mathematics, and medicine. As table 3 shows, in 1973–74 there were 28 higher education institutions in Bulgaria.[6] Of these, 14 were located in Sofia, 5 in Plovdiv, 3 in Varna, 2 in Gabrovo, and 1 each in Ruse, Burgas, Svistov, and Veliko Turnovo. (Sources differ on the number of higher education institutions, which is carried as 24 for 1974–75 in most sources. The situation appears to be in flux.)

Of all the higher education institutions, only three are termed "universities" and provide a more general liberal arts offering. The oldest (1888) and largest (17,000 students) is the University of Sofia, Clement of Ohrid. The other two, the University of Plovdiv, Paisii of Hilendar, and the University of Veliko Turnovo, Cyril and Methodius, were founded in 1971 as extensions of higher pedagogical institutes and together have less than half the enrollment of the University of Sofia. All other institutions of higher learning in Bulgaria provide specialized, technical, or professional (career) training of some type.

Since 1973, the new education reforms have reorganized various institutions in an effort to promote interdisciplinary programs of study and research. Areas currently receiving emphasis as a result are agrophysics, agricultural economics, computer technology and mathematics, engineering and economics, and interdisciplinary teacher-training programs. The trend is toward broader training in a field and elimination of some highly specialized programs.

Specific examples of this reorganization include: (1) consolidating the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, historically an administratively independent research institution in a large number of scientific and humanistic fields, with the University of Sofia; (2) establishing the George Dimitrov Agricultural Academy by amalgamating two colleges and a dozen research and experimental centers for the advanced training of agricultural specialists; and (3) organizing an Academy of Medicine that integrates three formerly independent medical schools and the Institute for the Post-Graduate Training of Physicians.

[5] Todor Zhivkov (Communist Party First Secretary). "Naukata i obrazovanieto v sluzhba na zhivota" ("Education and Scholarship in the Service of Life"), *Izbrani s"chinenija (Collected Works)*. Sofia: Partizdat, 1971. 8:375. Speech given on Oct. 14, 1971, at the opening of the University of Veliko T"rnovo, Cyril and Methodius. Translation by the author.

[6] Institutions of university rank not usually listed in Bulgarian informational materials for overseas consumption also include (1) *G. Benkovski VNVVU (Visshe narodno voenno v"zdushno uchilishte)* (G. Benkovski Higher People's Air Academy), (2) *G. Dimitrov VNVAU (Visshe narodno voenno artileriisko uchilishte)* (G. Dimitrov Higher People's Artillery Academy), (3) *V. Levski VNVU (Visshe narodno voenno uchilishte)* (V. Levski Higher People's Military Academy), and (4) *N. Vaptsarov VNVMU (Visshe narodno voenno morski uchilishte)* (N. Vaptsarov Higher People's Naval Academy).

Table 3.—Higher education institutions, with location and date founded: 1973–74

Name	*Location*	*Date founded*
Universities		
Sofiski universitet "Kliment Ohridski" (University of Sofia, Clement of Ohrid)	Sofia	1888 as a pedagogical institute. Became a university in 1904; granted a charter in 1909.
Plovdivski universitet "Paisii Hilendarksi" (University of Plovdiv, Paisii of Hilendar)	Plovdiv	1971. Formerly a higher pedagogical institute of the same name.
Veliko T"rnovski universitet "Kiril i Metodii" (University of Veliko Turnovo, Cyril and Methodius)	Veliko Turnovo	1971. Formerly a higher pedagogical institute of the same name.
Specialized Institutes		
Vissh institut za izobrazitelni izkustva "N. Pavlovich" (N. Pavlovich Higher Institute of Fine Arts)	Sofia	1896. Reorganized in 1921; raised to present status and title in 1954.
B"lgarska d"rzhavna konservatoria (Bulgarian State Conservatory)	Sofia	1904. Reorganized in 1921; acquired present status and title in 1954.
Vissh meditsinski institut (Higher Medical Institute)	Sofia	1918 as the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Sofia. Detached and reorganized as a separate institute in 1950.
Vissh ikonomicheski institut "Karl Marx" (Karl Marx Higher Institute of Economics)	Sofia	1920.
Vissh institut za narodnoto stopanstvo, "Dimit'r Blagoev" (Dimit"r Blagoev Higher Institute of National Economics)	Varna	1921 as a school of commerce. Became a Faculty of Economics in 1945; established as an independent institute in 1953.
Vissh selsko-stopanski institut "Georgi Dimitrov" (George Dimitrov Higher Institute of Agricultural Economics)	Sofia	1921. Reorganized in 1948.
Vissh veterinarnomeditsinski institut "Prof. Georgi Pavlov" (Professor Georgi Pavlov Higher Institute of Veterinary Medicine)	Sofia	1923 as a Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Sofia. Became part of the Institute of Agriculture in 1948; reorganized as a separate institution in 1953.
Vissh lesotekhnicheski institut (Higher Institute of Forestry)	D"rvenitsa Sofia	1925. Reorganized in 1953.
Vissh finansovo-stopanski institut "Dimitre A. Cenov" (Dimitre A. Cenov Higher Institute of Economics and Finance)	Svistov	1936 as a school of commerce. Became a school of economics and social science in 1948–49; reorganized in 1952–53 in its present form.

Table 3.—Higher education institutions, with location and date founded: 1973–74 (continued)

Name	*Location*	*Date founded*
Vissh ingenerno-stroitelen institut (Higher Institute of Civil Engineering)	Sofia	1942 as a technical school. Constituted as a polytechnical institute in 1947; acquired its present status in 1953.
Vissh institut za fisicheska kultura "Georgi Dimitrov" (Georgi Dimitrov Higher Institute of Physical Education)	Sofia	1942 as a school. Reorganized in 1944; acquired its present status and title in 1953.
Vissh mashinno-electronicheski institut "V. I. Lenin" (V. I. Lenin Higher Institute of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering)	Sofia	1942 as a faculty of mechanical engineering. Reorganized as an institute in 1953.
Vissh khimikotekhnologicheski institut (Higher Institute of Chemical Technology)	Sofia	1945 as a Department of the State Polytechnical Institute. Became a faculty in 1951 and a separate institute in 1954.
Vissh meditsinski in titut "Ivan P. Pavlov" (Ivan P. Pavlov Higher Institute of Medicine)	Plovdiv	1945 as a faculty of the University of Sofia. Detached in its present form in 1950.
Vissh selsko-stopanski institut "Vasil Kolarov" (Vasil Kolarov Higher Institute of Agricultural Economics)	Plovdiv	1945 as a part of another institution. Reorganized in its present form in 1950.
Vissh institut pochranitelna i vkusova promishlenost (Higher Institute of the Food and Tobacco Industries)	Plovdiv	1948 as a department of agricultural technology. Became a faculty of food technology in 1950; raised to the status and title of an institute in 1953.
Vissh institut za teatralno izkustvo "Kristu Sarafov" (Krištu Sarafov Higher Institute for the Theatrical Arts)	Sofia	1948.
Vissh mino-geolozhki institut (Higher Institute of Mining and Geology)	D"rvenitsa Sofia	1953.
Vissh institut po mashinostroene, mehanizatsia i elektrifikatsia na selskoto stopanstvo (Higher Institute for Machine-Construction, Mechanization, and Electrification in Agriculture)	Ruse	1954.
Vissh meditsinski institut (Higher Institute of Medicine)	Varna	1961.
Vissh khimikotekhnologicheski institute (Higher Institute of Chemical Technology)	Burgas	1963.

Table 3.—Higher education institutions, with location and date founded: 1973–74 (continued)

Name	*Location*	*Date founded*
Vissh mashino-elektrotekhnicheski institut (Higher Institute of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering)	Varna	1963.
Vissh mekano-elektrotekhnicheski institut (Higher Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Technology)	Gabrovo	1963.
Vissh obshtotekhnicheski zadochen institut (Higher General Technical Extension Institute)	Gabrovo	1964.
Vissh pedagogicheski institut po muzika (Higher Pedagogical Institute of Music)	Plovdiv	1972.

Sources: Adapted from *Internationales Universitats-Handbuch.* Munich: Verlag Dokumentation, 1971. Vol. 1, pt. 1; *International Handbook of Universities and Other Institutions of Higher Learning,* 6th ed. Paris: The International Association of Universities, 1974; and *The World of Learning, 1975–1976,* 25th ed. London: Europa Publications Ltd., 1975. Vol. 1.

Admissions.—In practically all cases, the stated requirements for admission to higher education include the secondary school certificate (the *matura*) and satisfactory grades on the particular higher education institution's entrance examinations. Theoretically, except for certain highly specialized categories, anyone who has received the *matura* may apply directly for admission to any higher education institution, but in many cases this is not possible because he or she would lack many needed specialized vocational courses.

Each higher education institution has an admission quota and employs a point system in ranking candidates. Using a somewhat involved formula, both the points scored by a candidate on the *matura* examinations and also his or her scores on the largely written entrance examinations of the admitting institution are taken into account in determining this rank. For admission to institutions in the fine arts, performance-based criteria are very important.

Preference in admission to all higher education institutions (except those specializing in fine arts) is given without competition and outside the admission quotas to "candidates who are active fighters against fascism and capitalism, heroes of socialist labor, [and] children of persons who perished in the antifascist struggle and Patriotic War."[7] Preference also without competition but inside the admission quotas is given to the following categories of applicants:

> Candidates who are winners of the republic and international olympiads [i.e., contests] in mathematics, physics, and chemistry and the holders of government and Komsomol commendations [the gold emblem] for scientific and technical creativity; [and] those who have completed mathematics high schools with excellent grades in the specialty of mathematics. . . .[8]

There are still other special categories. One consists of persons or children of persons in a particular vocation when applying to specific vocationally related institutions; e.g., miners or miners' children applying to the Sofia Higher Mining and Geological Institute. Another category includes "children of workers and peasants," who compete among themselves for a full 50 percent of the openings in the higher educational institutions in the arts. Although ostensibly not a selection criterion, a good record in the Dimitrov Communist Youth League and involvement in Party-approved activities are desirable and very helpful.

Most institutions accept students for regular study who are not over 35 years of age, although 40 years is the cutoff point in some instances, especially for correspondence study. However, the Higher Physical Culture Institute sets 27 years as the maximum age, while the Higher Institute for Theatrical Arts makes 25 years the maximum. The higher military schools set the

[7] *Durzhaven vestnik* (State Journal), No. 30, Apr. 16, 1971, pp. 1–6.

[8] Ibid.

age limit at 23 years of age, except the air force academy, which sets it at 21. In almost all cases, however, "active fighters against fascism and capitalism are admitted as students, regardless of age."[9]

Students admitted to higher educational institutions who have participated in preparatory courses organized by Provinces must also sign, upon admission, a statement that they will work for a period of 5 years after graduation within the respective Province.

In Bulgaria's planned economy, the admissions quota at a higher education institution in a particular field of study is determined according to the state's projected need for qualified personnel in that field, as reflected in the various state plans for technical-socioeconomic development of the country. Since the number of applicants is much larger than total state plan quotas, this procedure has resulted in a large number of students being refused admission to higher education institutions. In 1972, for instance, only 22,000 students were admitted out of a total of 80,000 applicants, or roughly one in four. This situation poses a particularly difficult problem for students because a student may apply to only one institution.

With about 73 percent of the applicants unsuccessful, a large group annually must either seek employment or try again the next year. In 1972, the Government began rigorously to enforce the laws against "idle youth," forcing approximately 40,000 young people during a few months either to find employment or to receive training in a lower level skill or occupation.

Administration.—In a Bulgarian university or other higher education institution, officers include a rector, who is elected by the General Assembly[10] for a 4-year period, one or more associate rectors, also elected for the same length of time, a chief administrative officer, a chief financial officer, and other administrative personnel. The election of the rector and associate rectors, none of whom may serve more than two consecutive terms, must be ratified by the chairman of the Committee for Science, Technical Progress, and Higher Education, who then appoints them formally to their respective offices. (In some specialized technical schools under the direction of a ministry, ratification is given by the appropriate ministers with the approval of the Committee for Science, Technical Progress, and Higher Education.)

There are also deans of schools (or faculties) and associate deans, elected by the General Assembly of the respective schools or faculties. The elections of these deans must be ratified by the rector of the institution, who then proceeds to appoint them to office. Likewise, the term of office for deans and associate deans is 4 years, and they may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

Responsibility for most administrative functions and routine decisions in operating an institution falls to its chief administrative officer, whose position is more or less permanent. Major policy decisions in most cases are made by the institution's Academic Council, which usually includes the rector, who serves as the chairman, the associate rectors, faculty deans, four to six members of every faculty, the secretary of the institution's committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, and the secretaries of the institution's committees of the Komsomol and the Trade Unions. The rector is ultimately responsible for the functioning of the institution and represents it before the Committee for Science, Technical Progress, and Higher Education and/or the appropriate minister.

The major academic ranks in higher education institutions are *profesor* (professor), *dotsent* (docent), *glaven asistent* (chief assistant), *starshi asistent* (senior assistant), *asistent* (assistant), *starshi prepodavatel* (senior lecturer), *prepodavatel* (lecturer), and *mladchi prepodavatel* (junior lecturer).

The rank of assistant professor (*asistent*) may be granted to a person with a diploma from a higher education institution who is no older than 35 years of age, unless he also has a graduate degree of Candidate of Sciences or Doctor of Sciences, in which case the maximum age limit is extended to 40 years.

Curriculums and diplomas.—Most full higher education institutions provide 5-year programs, although as a result of the recently inaugurated educational reforms, most courses of study in both the higher education institutes and the universities will be shortened to 4 years. This shortening will become possible because of the trend, mentioned earlier, toward broad training

[9] *Durzhaven vestnik* (State Journal), No. 30, Apr. 16, 1971, pp. 4–5.

[10] The General Assembly of an institution is usually composed of all senior professors, representatives of the junior staff, representatives of the students, and professionals in the field(s) for which the institution prepares students. The General Assembly of a school or faculty is similarly organized.

in a field and elimination of some highly specialized programs. Bulgarian officials have expressed the view that much of higher education was too specialized and limiting, stressing mastery of innumerable factual data and information which students did not need or which was dated by the time they entered the labor force. Emphasis will henceforth be placed on broad theoretical principles and creative thinking in the field of specialization. Thus students will be able to finish their university education by age 19 or 20 and then either enter the professional work force, take further specialized work for 1 or 2 years, or enroll in graduate training for up to 3 more years.

Currently, law has a 4-year course of study; dentistry and the institutes of economics, 4½; the agricultural institutes, 4½ to 5; pharmacy, 5; and medicine, 5½. The curriculums differ, of course, depending upon the institution and subject of study. All include intensive study and practical work experience in a student's own subject area. In almost all cases, they have several other aspects in common. A study of the history of the Bulgarian (and sometimes also the Soviet) Communist Party is always included, even for students in engineering and the sciences. In addition, students in some programs may be expected to take other related ideological courses, such as political economy, philosophy, scientific communism, or dialectical materialism (as a branch of philosophy) as part of the core requirements. Depending upon the program of study, as much as a semester of the total program may be devoted to courses of this type.

Also required are physical education (in many instances) and a course in civil defense for all Bulgarians. Foreign students, on the other hand, are required by some institutions to pass a last-semester course in the "International Working and National Liberation Movement."

A diploma and title are awarded after a student completes the higher education program of studies and passes prescribed examinations. Graduates in the field of economics receive the professional title *ikonomist* or *ikonomistka;* in engineering, *inzhener* or *inzhenerka;* in medicine, *lekar* or *meditsinski doktor* or *doktorka;* in pharmacy, *aptekar* or *aptekarka* (sometimes *magister pharmaciae*); and in dentistry, *zabolekar* or *zabolekarka*.

University diplomas name the institution, date, field of study, area of concentration (*profil*), and/or specialty (*spetsilizatsiya*) within the field. The various faculties may describe their diplomas differently; e.g., the University of Sofia faculty of physics awards a diploma *Nauchno-proizvodstven profil geofizika* indicating that the program was for industrial work in geophysics; and the faculty of biology gives the *Biologiya-pedagogicheski profil* for a program for teaching biology.

Upon completing their studies, most graduates are required by law to work in the location assigned to them by the Government for a period of 3 years. Although this procedure has enabled localities that would otherwise have difficulty obtaining specialists and professionals (such as teachers, doctors, and engineers) to obtain the services of such qualified personnel, it has also meant that these communities often are served mostly by individuals with limited experience who must be replaced, if and when they choose to leave after their required 3 years are past.

Subsequently, an individual may continue his or her studies on a graduate basis, write a thesis, and receive the degree *kandidat na naukite* (Candidate of Science). Usually the additional amount of time needed for all the requirements to be met is a minimum of 3 years beyond the initial diploma. A further degree, *doktor na naukite* (Doctor of Science), may be awarded someone of considerable stature and professional experience in a field who has presented still another thesis, highly original and of significant scholarship. It may also be awarded to a person who has shown particular distinction in his or her profession or contributed to progress in the national economy.

The new Law Governing Scientific Degrees and Titles which was adopted in 1972 expands the basis by which advanced degrees may be awarded. According to the new provisions,

> . . . not only scientific research, but creative achievements in the fields of construction, design, technological works and inventions which have been or could be put into use, are the basis for granting of scientific degrees.[11]

TEACHER EDUCATION

Teachers for nursery schools, kindergartens, and primary grades generally receive their preparation in 2-year programs of semi-higher teachers institutes (*poluvisshi uchitelski instituti*) after

[11] Sava Ganovski. *Vecherni novini* (Evening News), May 11, 1974, pp. 1 and 4. (U.S. Joint Publications Research Service translation). See also, *Durzhaven vestnik* (State Journal), No. 36, May 9, 1972.

completion of secondary education. (Formerly, such preparation was given in 5-year institutes after elementary school, but this program was discontinued on a gradual basis beginning in 1964.)

Students enrolled in the preschool teacher education program may elect one of three majors: (1) Kindergarten-nursery school teaching, (2) kindergarten-nursery school teaching in music, and (3) kindergarten-nursery school teaching in the Russian language. Students taking the primary-school teacher education program also have three majors from which to choose: (1)Primary school teaching with Russian language as a specialty, (2) primary school teaching with music as a specialty, and (3) primary school teaching with drawing and education-in-labor as a specialty. Certain higher education institutions also have 2-year primary teacher preparation programs.

The program of study for students preparing to teach in primary schools includes ideological, professional, and general courses. In common with most students in higher and semi-higher institutions, prospective primary school teachers have to take such ideologically related courses as the history of the Bulgarian Communist Party, dialectical and historical materialism, political economy, ethics, and scholarly communism. They take such professional courses as child and educational psychology, history of education and Bulgarian education, dramatics, children's literature, introduction to education, educational technology, practice teaching and classroom observation, and the methods of teaching such subjects as arithmetic, physical education, drawing, school hygiene, Bulgarian, history, geography, and science. Their general education includes Bulgarian language, history, mathematics, geography,and natural science. Courses in education in labor and civil defense also form part of the curriculum.

To teach the intermediate grades, graduation from an institution of university rank is preferred, but three semi-higher teachers institutes also prepare teachers for this level in a 3-year program. This program is considered a temporary expedient to provide teachers for rural areas, and plans call for its eventual discontinuation. Students major in one of five broad instructional areas (or related subjects) rather than in specific subjects, so that they may be adequately prepared to teach in the departmentalized program in the intermediate grades. These five areas are: (1) Bulgarian language and literature and the Russian language, (2) Bulgarian language and literature and one Western language, (3) physics and mathematics, (4) chemistry and biology, and (5) geography, history, and preparation for work with the Pioneer organization of schools.

To teach in secondary schools, graduation from a higher education institution is usually required. Teachers of academic subjects take their training at one of the three universities. A teacher education institution of university rank was recently established in the city of Shumen to prepare additional teachers for the secondary schools. The program of academic subjects for secondary teachers is called a *pedagogicheski profil*, or education major, and is 4 years in length. It includes specialized subject-matter courses as well as work in educational methods and psychology.

Secondary school teachers in physical education are prepared in the George Dimitrov Higher Institute of Physical Education in Sofia (*Vissh institut za fizicheska kultura "G. Dimitrov"*). Secondary school art teachers receive their education in the N. Pavlovic Higher Institute of Fine Arts in Sofia (*Vissh institut za izobrazitelni izkustva "N. Pavlovic"*). Music and voice teachers receive their preparation at one of three institutions—the Bulgarian State Conservatory in Sofia (*B"lgarska d"rzhavna konservatoriya*), its branch in Plovdiv, or in the Department of Voice and Music in the new Higher Pedagogical Institute in Shumen.

Teachers of industrial arts and crafts (i.e., the so-called program of education in labor) for grades 5 to 8 are prepared in one of the semi-higher institutes in a 2-year program. And teachers of practical vocational courses are prepared in semi-higher pedagogical institutes after completing a secondary vocational school themselves.

Teacher education for the elementary and secondary levels is also provided by correspondence (*zadochno*) by some of the semi-higher pedagogical institutes in 2- and 3-year programs. Inservice and preservice teacher training (especially for vocational teachers) is also given at three institutes for the Improvement of Teaching (*Instituti za zavershvane na uchiteli*).

ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

Adult and continuing education programs of considerable magnitude exist in Bulgaria in addition to those carried out in regular day school

settings. These include general polytechnical evening classes at the primary, intermediate, and secondary level as well as technical evening education in technicums and secondary vocational schools.

Some industrial enterprises also provide on-the-job training as well as training in industry-affiliated schools. Schools of this type generally are under the jurisdiction of the state ministry under which the particular industry falls rather than under the Ministry of Public Education.

Likewise, most semi-higher institutes and higher education institutions provide so-called correspondence courses (*zadochno*) for students employed full time. Students prepare for examinations on the basis of the syllabus furnished to them by the institution. In some cases, they may also meet with instructors from the school at certain "correspondence centers" before taking the examinations. Passing or failing is determined solely on the basis of these examinations. Successful candidates have exactly the same rights and privileges and obtain the same diplomas and certificates as those enrolled in regular daytime courses. The institutions providing such programs extramurally include the universities and most other higher education institutions as well as the following specialized semi-higher institutes: Institutes for nursery-kindergarten school teachers, primary school teachers, intermediate school teachers, and teachers in production training, respectively; the institute for Librarians; the Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone Institute; and the institutes for international tourism.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Bulgaria maintains a number of special schools for physically or mentally retarded children. Included in this category are "climatic" schools (for children with pulmonary, cardio-rheumatic, and other related diseases), which are modeled in some ways along the lines of the older American open-air schools; schools for the mentally retarded; schools for the physically disabled; schools for the deaf-mute and for children with defective hearing; schools for stammerers; schools for the blind and for children with defective sight; and schools for juvenile delinquents (so-called problem children).

BOARDING SCHOOLS AND EXTENDED DAY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Three important education-related programs in Bulgaria are (1) boarding schools (*internati*, often translated "hostels"), (2) semi-boarding schools (*poluinternati*), and (3) study halls (*zanimalni*). The first two serve as adjuncts to some schools, with the first providing room and board to students who are unable to live at home while attending school, and the second providing board and functioning as a type of center for children after classes. In 1977 approximately one-third of all school children attended these semi-boarding schools. The third simply offers guided play and learning activities for children by persons who are not regular classroom teachers. These tutors (*v"zpitateli*, literally, "trainers") help students prepare their assignments for the next day, direct work projects, and organize various games, sports, and other recreational activities.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Networks of extracurricular activities for children and youth comprise a rather extensive and very important element in Bulgaria's education program. In most cases, they are located in the school and are a supplementary part of the total school program. In other instances, the activities are carried out in separate institutions, but nevertheless remain extensions of the school program.

The Dimitrov Pioneer Organization

Children entering the primary grades at the age of 6 or 7 are inducted into the *Chavdarcheta* (literally, "Little Chavdars"), so named after a medieval Bulgarian *hajduk* (patriotic brigand) who fought against the Turks. This is the junior branch of the Dimitrov Pioneer Organization. Third graders become regular members of the Dimitrov Pioneer Organization "Septembrists," perhaps the most important of the youth organizations because of its almost total inclusiveness and consequent size. Founded on September 22, 1944, at the direction of George Dimitrov, Premier of Bulgaria at the time and First Secretary of its Communist Party, the organization has as its primary purpose the ideological teaching of youth. In the process, it provides an extensive and varied program of activities for children from grades 3 through 8, at which time most students become members of the senior organization, the Dimitrov Communist Youth League, to which they can belong until age 28.

Much of the work of the Pioneers takes place in study groups (*kr"zhochi*) centered on a specific

field of study, topic, or hobby. These study groups meet once or twice a week under the direction of a teacher or other person qualified in the particular area. As members of such circles or of school classes, Pioneers engage in conservation efforts (e.g., planting trees) and recycling projects (gathering waste paper, scrap metals, etc.); visit geographic landmarks and historic sites significant to the nation or the Communist Party; take field trips to state and collective farms and industrial enterprises; study music, dancing, literature, art, history, geography, and dramatics; and participate in chess, checkers, and other games. In recent years, particular emphasis has been placed on sports and on technological and scientific projects in fields such as model building, woodworking, mathematics, electronics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, agriculture, and biology.

Each school has at least one Pioneer Battalion (*druzhina*) —two if it operates in two shifts. Each *druzhina* is governed by a soviet and is divided into companies (*otryadi*, plural of *otryad*) that generally are identical to the classes in a school. Finally, each company is formed into units termed *zvena*.

Supporting the school Pioneer work are several auxiliary institutions. In the Palace of the Pioneers (*Dvorets na pionerite*) in Sofia and in about 100 Pioneer homes (*Pionerski domove*), school children are trained as Pioneer leaders in the various activities, study groups, and programs of the Pioneer movement. The chorus of the Palace, named *Bodra Smyana*, the children's ballet, and the symphony orchestra are outstanding in their technical expertise and performances, although many compositions and much of the choreography selected is of an ideological nature. Related institutions devoted solely to encouraging promising students in technological and scientific studies are the Station of Young Technicians (*Stantsiya na mladite tekhnitsi*) in Sofia and a similar one in Pernik, an important industrial and mining town. An institution having like purposes in the field of agriculture is the Station of Young Agriculturists (*Stantsiya na mladite agrobiolozhi*). And for children and youth with an interest in literature, there is the Home of Children's Literature (*Dom na detskata kniga*).

The activities of the Dimitrov League of Communist Youth, the senior organization, are similar to those of the Pioneers, but are appropriate for the age group enrolled. In addition, it is especially active in involving youth in brigade work (*brigadi*) during summers and school vacation periods. Brigade work is of many different types but most often involves general construction, road building, or farm work. The League serves as one means for screening and training future members of the Bulgarian Communist Party.

The organization is centralized and structurally similar to the Bulgarian Communist Party. Units of the League are found in almost all secondary schools and higher education institutions and in many factories, industrial plants, and state and collective farms.

Other Organizations

For secondary school students, college students, and working youth and adults, there are additional organizations devoted to specific interests. Those promoting sports and physical training are perhaps the most important. The overall administration and coordination of sports is provided by the Bulgarian Union for Physical Culture and Sport (*B"lgarski s"uz za fizicheska kultura i sport*). Other organizations involved in activities relating to physical conditioning and sports include the Bulgarian Union of Tourists (*B"lgarski turisticheski s"uz* [*BTS*]), the National Hunting and Fishing Union (*Narodniyat lovno-ribarski s"uz*), and the Paramilitary Organization for Assistance in Defense (*Dobrovolnata organizatsiya za s"deistvie na otbranata*[*DOSO*]). This last organization, created in 1951 by merging the Union of the Fighters Against Fascism and Capitalism (*S"uza na boitsite protiv fashizma i kapitalizma* [*SBPF*]) and the National Union for Sports and Technology (*Narodni s"uz za sport i tekhnika* [*NSST*]), has both quasi-military and educational functions. It conducts programs of applied education in a great variety of fields through an extensive network of clubs devoted to automechanics, electronics, radio, riflery and marksmenship, boating, flying, motorcycling, gliding, signaling, etc. Other extracurricular organizations include: The Bulgarian Red Cross (*B"lgarski cherven kr"st* [*BChK*]) and its junior division; the Bulgarian Union of Esperantists (*B"lgarski esperantski s"uz*) and various language study centers; and reading clubs (*chitalishta*) with their varied literary, cultural, ideological, and recreational activities.

GLOSSARY OF SELECTED EDUCATIONAL TERMS

A

Agronomicheski fakultet	School (Faculty) of Agriculture
Akademicheski s"vet	Academic council of a higher education institution
Asistent	Graduate appointed to assist a professor, often supervising the students' practical work; an assistant lecturer in a higher education institution
Aspirant (masc.), *aspirantka* (fem.)	Graduate student
Aspirantura	Graduate study, research, or course work
Atestat	Certificate, diploma

B

Bogoslovski fakultet	School (Faculty) of Theology
B"lgarska akademiya na naukite	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
B"lgarski obsht naroden studentski s"yuz	Bulgarian General National Student Union

C

Chavdarcheta	Little Chavdars, members of the junior branch of the Dimitrov Pioneer Organization
Chitalishte	Reading room or club

D

Detska gradina	Kindergarten for children aged 3 to 6 (literally, children's garden)
Dimitrovski komunisticheski mladezhki s"yuz	League of Communist Youth, the country's major senior organization for ages 14 to 27
Dimitrovska pionerska organizatsiya "Septemvriiche"	Dimitrov Pioneer Organization "Septembrist," the major junior youth organization, enrolling children from the ages of about 10 to 14
Director na uchilishte	Director of a school
Disertatsiya	Dissertation
Doklad	Report; lecture; paper
Doktor na naukite	Doctor of Knowledge (or Science), awarded to a holder of the *Kandidat na naukite* after an additional thesis and professional recognition as a scholar; may also be awarded for distinction in a profession or contribution to progress in the national economy
Dotsent	Lecturer in a higher education institution
Druzhina	Battalion, a unit of the Dimitrov Pioneer Organization, often comprising an entire school

E

Edinnoto sredno politekhnichesko uchilishte	Unified polytechnical school, comprising grades 1–10 under the reformed structure

F

Fabrichno-zavodski uchilishta	Factory and plant schools
Fakultet	Faculty or school (primary subdivision) of a higher education institution; group of professors in a higher education institution
Fakulteten s"vet	Faculty Council
Fakultet za stopanski i sotsialni nauki	School (Faculty) of Economics and Social Sciences
Filologicheski fakultet	School (Faculty) of Philology
Filosovski-istoricheski fakultet	School (Faculty) of Philosophy and History
Fizicheska kultura	Physical culture
Fiziko-matematicheski fakultet	School (Faculty) of Physics-Mathematics

G

Gimnaziya	Gymnasium, or secondary level of the general (or unified) polytechnical school

Goren kurs — Secondary level (literally, upper course) of the general (or unified) polytechnical school

I

Ikonomicheski tekhnicum — Technicum of Economics

Institut — Institute, a higher education or research institution that specializes in a particular field such as agriculture, medicine, economics, or technology

Internat — Boarding school

Izpit — Examination

J

Jasli — Nursery schools for children under 3 years of age

K

Kandidat na naukite — Candidate of Knowledge (or Science), a first graduate degree awarded to a holder of the initial university diploma after completion of at least 3 additional years of study and a thesis; also the holder of the degree

Kandidat na technicheskite nauki — Candidate of Technical Sciences, a graduate diploma; also the holder of the diploma

Katedra — Department of a *fakultet*

Khudozhestvena akademiya — Academy of fine arts

Kolokvium — Preliminary oral examination

Komitet za nauka, izkustvo i kultura — Committee for science, art, and culture

Komsomol — Komsomol, the Dimitrov League of Communist Youth

Konkursen izpit — Competitive examination

Kr"zhok — Study group

Kvalifitziran rabotnik — Certificate of qualification for a vocation

L

Lektor — Lecturer, reader, teacher

M

Matura — Certificate of graduation from the secondary level of the general (or unified) polytechnical school, required for admission to higher education institutions

Maturiteten izpit — School-leaving examination for the *matura*

Maturiteten predmet — Subject included in the final examination for the *matura*

Meditsinski fakultet — School (Faculty) of Medicine

Mekhano-tekhnichesko uchilishte — Mechanical and technical school

Ministerski s"vet — Council of Ministers (of which the Minister of Public Education is a member)

Ministerstvo na narodnata prosveta — Ministry of Public (National) Education

Mladezhki otechestven front — Fatherland Youth Front

N

Nachalen uchitel (masc.), *nachalna uchitelka* (fem.) — Primary school teacher

Nachalno uchilishte — Primary school

Nauchno-pedagogicheski profil. — Professional education field

O

Obshtestveno-politicheski nauki. — Social sciences

Osnovno uchilishte — Elementary school, grades 1–8

Otryad — Company in the Dimitrov Pioneer Organization, usually a school class

P

Pioner (masc.), *pionerka* (fem.) — Pioneer, a member of the Dimitrov Pioneer Organization

Pismen izpit — Written examination

Politekhnichesko obrazovanie — Politechnical education or training

Politekhnichesko uchilishte s prepodavane na ruski ezik	Foreign language school to train specialists in Russian
Politekhnichesko uchilishte s prepodavane na frenski, nemashki, ili angliski ezik	Foreign language school to train specialists in French, German, and English
Polu-internat	Semi-boarding school, providing board and care for children after classes
Poluvissh institut	Semi-higher institute, post-secondary school offering a 2- to 3-year program
Poluvissh uchitelski institute	Semi-higher teachers institute
Popravitelen izpit	Makeup examination
Prakticheski uprazhneniya	Practical work in a seminar
Prepodavatel (masc.), *prepodavatelka* (fem.)	Teacher, instructor, lecturer
Priemen izpit	Entrance examination
Prirodo-matematicheski fakultet	School (Faculty) of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
Profesionalno obrazovanie	Vocational education or training
Profesionalno-teknichesko uchilishte	Lower vocational school (literally, vocational-technical school), offering 1- or 2-year courses at the secondary level

R

Redoven profesor	Ordinary professor, holding a chair in the subject he teaches
Rektor	Rector, head of a university, elected by the academic staff, usually for a 4-year period

S

Sekretar	Secretary, the chief executive administrative official of a higher education institution
Septemvriiche	Septembrist, a member of the *Dimitrovska Pionerska Orgaizatsiya "Septemvriiche"*
Shkola	School
Sofiyski d"rzhaven universitet.	Sofia State University, an alternate name for the University of Sofia, Clement of Ohrid
Sredno obshtoobrazovatelno politekhnichesko uchilishte	General polytechnical school, comprising grades 1–11 under the current structure
Sredno profesionalno-tekhnichesko uchilishte	Middle vocational school, offering a program of 3 or more years leading to the *matura* and a certificate of qualification in a vocation
Sredno uchilishte	Intermediate school, offering 4 years of schooling between the primary and secondary levels
Starshi asistent	Senior assistant
Stepen	Degree; rank; level; grade
Svidelelstvo	Certificate of graduation

T

Teknikum	Technicum, currently used for certain specialized secondary vocational-technical schools that will become postsecondary institutions in the reformed educational structure; offers a 4- or 5-year course leading to the *matura* and a certificate of qualification in a vocation; more advanced training than that of the middle vocational school
Teza	Thesis
Trudovo obuchenie	Education in labor
Tsentralen institut za us"v"rshenstvuvane na uchitelite	Central Institute for the Advanced Training of Teachers
Tsentralen komitet na Dimitrovski s"yuz na narodnata mladezh	Central Committee of the Dimitrov People's Youth League

U

Uchilishte za trudovi reservi	Vocational school
Uchitel (masc.), *uchitelka* (fem.)	Teacher
Usten izpit	Oral examination

V

Visshe bogoslovski uchilishte	Advanced Theological School

Visshe t"rgovsko uchilishte	Higher School of Commerce, which provides courses in accounting, economics, business management, and demography
Visshe uchebno zavedenie	Higher education institution of university rank
Visshето uchilishte za stopanski i sotsialni nauki	Higher School for Economic and Social Sciences

Y

Yuridicheski fakultet	School (Faculty) of Law

Z

Zadochno obuchenie	Correspondence courses
Zanimalna	Study hall, offering guided play and learning activities for children of working parents
Zhelezop"tno uchilishte	School for Training Railroad Employees (literally, Railroad School)
Zrelostен izpit	Final examination
Zveno	A unit of children within a Pioneer *otryad*, or company

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